

## Functions of the State.

Communicated.

What are they? Upon the answer which the masses give to this question the civilization of the future will be builded. The present system is a transitory one. Social conditions are ripe for a change. We may hasten or retard the final result, but cannot prevent its fruition. Change is the great law of life and applies to the social and political institutions of men, as well as to their physical lives. It may be progressive or retrogressive toward the dawn or the darkness. It may make the welfare of society the paramount object of the state or abandon all save the taxing power of government and leave to private enterprise (?) the destiny of our people. Shall the greatest good to the greatest number, or "each for himself and devil take the hindmost" be the guiding star of governmental action? Individualism and competition will lead the way to chaos and anarchy. Nationalism and co-operation will inaugurate a reign of justice thus leading to an equality of power if not of condition.

The sphere of the state may be determined by the civilization of the people. Many seem to think at present that its chief function is that of a policeman preventing the weaker from gaining any undue advantage of the stronger, as in the Buffalo strike. The war between labor and capital has been waged with the fierceness of desperation for years. Let us have peace. State interference has been opposed by some chiefly because it was misunderstood.

The shadow of the kingly scepter of old, crushing manhood, stifling the expression of thought and destroying all incentive to action, no longer lies athwart the pathway of human progress. "The divine right of kings" to misrule or governments to oppress forms no part of our political creed. The proud boast of Louis XIV of France, "I am the state" is not the modern conception. Let us substitute that of Prof. Ely in his "Introduction to Political Economy": "The modern conception of the state is that it is a co-operative community carrying with it the power of coercion, and thus differs from voluntary co-operative associations. The state is a coercive co-operative commonwealth."

The dread of governmental activity is an inheritance from ages of despotism, when government was something apart from the people; when government tyrannized over the bodies and religion over the souls of men. We have no cause for dreading a despotism in which the subjects are the rulers. Anything which the government can perform better than the individual should be done by it; work which vitally affects society should not be left to the caprice of individuals. "To promote the general welfare" is the supreme purpose of the state.

Mill said: "The admitted functions of government embrace a much wider field than can easily be included in the ring fence of any definition and it is hardly possible to find any ground of justification common to them all except the comprehensive one of general expediency."

Professor Ely has stated it with great clearness: "There seems, in the nature of things, no more reason why the state should do one thing rather than another, except that it is more useful. If both are equally essential to the general welfare there is no more reason why the state should punish crime than why it should construct and operate a steam railway. But it is feared that the state will usurp the duties of the individual."

I shall let Professor Huxley reply: "Surely the answer is obvious that on similar grounds the right of man to eat when he is hungry might be disputed; because if you once allow that he may eat at all, there is no stopping until he gorges himself and suffers all the ills of a surfeit."

That government activity is injurious to private enterprise has never been proven. What function performed by the state to-day would the people relinquish to the control of individuals? More care is exercised, human life is better protected, publicity and more efficient control are secured at much lower cost in every instance under state or municipal control. The welfare of society is paramount to the gratification of the avarice of the individual. The state is the source of all political rights and duties. The right to free speech, choice of occupation, protection to property, etc., are all derived from the state.

A few centuries ago men were ruled by deputies appointed by a king; their government was the most oppressive of all time. Turn to Queen Elizabeth's reign if you would view the stifling effect of monopolies upon trade; to the East India company, for an instance, of a people destroyed by a monopoly or to our own land where the theories of individualism have run mad, where wealth rivaling that of Croesus, and poverty as dire as that of Lazarus jostle each other in our streets; untold resources undeveloped and millions of tramps, factories idle and men freezing. Our working people surrounded by the pomp of the nineteenth century, yet many live in more squalor and poverty than the savage. These are the anomalous conditions presented by an era of individualism.

Ruskin, in writing of England, described our own country: "Though England is black with coal her people are perishing of cold, though the ear is deafened with the sound of spindle and loom her children are naked; and though she sold her soul for gain her people are dying of hunger."

It is the culmination of individualism. Let us hope that an era of equality and brotherhood is dawning. Of that which perishes we may say:

"Twas but the ruin of the bad,  
The wasting of the wrong and ill;  
Whatever of good the old time had,  
Was living still."

Republic, Kas. G. E. MILLER.

## Government Banking.

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—Your editorial of Feb. 14, struck the keynote of the next and all future campaigns of the Populists. "Public ownership and public operation of public utilities"—that expression has the ring of true metal in it and should hereafter be incorporated into all our platforms—national, state, district and county. Let it be clearly understood and let it be expressed fairly and tersely that the utilities which are natural monopolies must pass into public hands just as soon as arrangements can be made for getting possession of those now existing without wronging the present holders, or for making others which will drive the present operators out of their business.

Instead of singling out two or three things like railroads and telegraphs, we should use general terms first and then particularize. Great lines of railroads, telegraphs, telephones and canals should be nationalized. Perhaps smaller lines should be under the control of one or more states. City platforms should make clear that we favor municipal ownership and operation of street railways, waterworks, electric lights, etc.

We war against monopoly in all its

hydra-headed forms. We offer a remedy for this deep seated disease. No other party pretends to do so. The wildest dreamer does not imagine that either the highest protection or the most absolute free trade will destroy the monopolies now existing, or prevent the formation of new ones.

There is an indefiniteness about some of our principles as now expressed that is no doubt charming to an old party politician, but is painful to the whole-souled methodical Populist who is a reformer from conviction, because he wants fair play. When we talk of government ownership of railroads the question at once arises, "How are you going to get the roads now built?" The same question is asked regarding canals, telegraphs, etc. Who will give simple answers to these questions through THE ADVOCATE?

First in importance, however, is the money question. What good ways are given by our editors and speakers of getting the greenbacks into circulation? The Omaha platform says, "the sub-treasury scheme or something better." Is not government banking the "something better" that many have been looking for? Since money is essentially the creature of the government fiat, why should not the government assume the banking power? Our party since its inception has vowed eternal enmity to the national banking system, whereby a few individuals fatten at public expense. But with what have we proposed to supercede it? Postal savings banks? We have never yet seen an intelligible explanation of that institution. Let someone give a good explanation of these postal savings banks. Will they cash checks and drafts or loan money?

A bill providing for government banking is now in the hands of Representative Wm. Baker, of the Sixth district. It was drawn up by S. P. Denamoor, of this place, and the writer. It provides for banks in every county seat and city of over 10,000 inhabitants. Such banks are to be built and operated by the national government. Their cashiers are to be elected by the communities in which the banks are to be located. They are to loan money on any property to an amount not exceeding one-third of its cash value. We would like to see this idea of government banking thoroughly discussed in these columns. If it is practicable, let us demand it in our platforms; if it is not, let someone offer something better. J. C. RUPPENTHAL, Jr.  
Lucas, Kas.

There are longer but no better roads in this or any other country than the Chicago & Alton railroad. This line makes a permanent patron of every traveler who once gives it a trial. Its tracks are of the heaviest steel and as smooth as glass. Its road-bed is stone ballasted throughout. Its equipment is superb. It was the first line on which a Pullman sleeping car was ever run, the first line to adopt dining cars, and the first line to run free reclining chair cars, and to-day its solid vestibuled trains, containing all of these modern luxuries, are running through on fast time to and from Union depots in Kansas City, St. Louis and Chicago with astonishing regularity and with exceeding comfort to its ever increasing patrons. If you ever make a trip in any direction between Kansas City and Chicago, or Kansas City and St. Louis, or St. Louis and Chicago, and fail to patronize the Chicago & Alton, you may be sure that you have missed at least one opportunity for increasing your happiness in this life.

Send for an Advocate subscription placed to hang in your store or office.

**DOUBLE**  
Breach-loader  
\$6.00.  
RIFLES \$2.00  
WATCHES  
When writing advertisers mention Advocate

**GUNS**

**BICYCLES \$10**  
All kinds of bicycles and accessories. Before you buy, send stamp for catalogue to POWELL & CLEMENT CO., 100 Main St., Cincinnati, O.

## HAVE YOU HEARD

Of Viavi the great home treatment for women? Probably you have. Our Health Book for mothers and daughters tells all it about it. Mailed free.

**KANSAS VIAVI COMPANY,**  
Columbian Building,  
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

When writing advertisers mention Advocate

## CONSUMERS AND MANUFACTURERS SHOULD JOIN HANDS.

We will deal direct with Kansas farmers and give you the best Plows, Listers, Harrows, implements, at WHOLESALE PRICES. Drop us a card, tell us what you want and we will send Catalogue, etc., Free. We Want Agents in Kansas. Address, MAPGOOD FLOW CO., Alton, Illinois.

When writing advertisers mention Advocate

**FREE** A fine 14k gold plated watch to every reader of this paper. Cut this out and send it to us with your full name and address, and we will send you one of these elegant, richly jeweled, gold plated watches by express for examination, and if you think it is equal in appearance to any \$15.00 gold watch pay our sample price, \$3.50 and express charges, and it is yours. Guarantee for 5 Years sent with every watch, and if you sell or cause the sale of six we will give you five free. Write at once, as we shall send out samples for 50 days only. Address THE NATIONAL MFG & IMPORTING CO., 334 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

When writing advertisers mention Advocate

## MURRAY VEHICLES and HARNESS

Time Tried and Tested and Endorsed the world over as the Best and Cheapest on Earth.

Single Suggy Harness	5.95
Double Suggy Harness	15.75
Single Farm Harness	17.57
Double Farm Harness	22.94
Top Harness	55.95
Road Carriage	14.00
Road Wagons	21.75
Spring Wagons	42.50
Farm Wagons (2 horse)	39.50

Free 160 page Catalogue, free.  
Wilber H. Murray Mfg. Co., Cincinnati, O.

When writing advertisers mention Advocate

## FERRY'S SEEDS

Are just what every grower needs. The merits of Ferry's Seeds form the foundation upon which has been built the largest seed business in the world. Ferry's Seed Annual for 1894 contains the sum and substance of the latest farming knowledge. Free for the asking. D. M. FERRY & CO., Detroit, Mich.

When writing advertisers mention Advocate

**YES THERE'S MONEY IN IT**



**FARMERS WHO MAKE THE MOST MONEY USE THE LATEST AND MOST IMPROVED MACHINERY.**  
JUST SEND FOR OUR CIRCULAR OF **CLARK'S CUTAWAY HARROW** AND SEE WHAT IT WILL DO. **THAT'S WHAT COUNTS**  
**THE CUTAWAY HARROW CO.**  
HIGGANSUM, CONN. NEW YORK OFFICE, 18 CLIFF STREET.

When writing advertisers mention Advocate